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ATTENDING DOC STORIES

Tickets

General Admission.....	\$20
Student/Senior/ADA.....	\$19
SFFILM Member.....	\$16

Ticket Packs

Ticket Packs are the most flexible way to see SFFILM events at a discount, and may be redeemed for any regular, non-rush screening or event priced up to \$25.

6-PACK

SFFILM Members.....	\$95
General Public.....	\$115

10-PACK

SFFILM Members.....	\$145
General Public.....	\$175

Cinevisa

The best way to support SFFILM, this all-access pass includes entry to the priority line at all film screenings and access to the Doc Stories Lounge.

Cinevisa.....	\$500
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THE FINE PRINT

Ticket prices may vary for Special Events. Tickets are subject to a \$1.50 service fee. Opening Night and Closing Night tickets are priced at \$35 for non-members and \$30 for members. Ticket Packs are subject to a \$5 service fee. Valid ID required to receive discounts. If you require wheelchair seating or other accessibility accommodations, notify the SFFILM Box Office when placing an order.

Purchase tickets online at [sffilm.org]

Accessibility

SFFILM is committed to providing accessible experiences at all events whether in-person or online. Event pages will be updated with accessibility information as it becomes available, which may be after tickets go on sale. For more information about accessibility at specific venues or programs, please visit [sffilm.org/accessibility] or contact ada@sffilm.org.

COVID-19 Policy

Masks are strongly encouraged when not eating or drinking. Proof of vaccination is not required to attend screenings and/or events.

FILM DESCRIPTIONS

Architecton

Sun, Oct 20 at 11 AM at Vogue Theatre

Victor Kossakovsky (Germany/France/USA 2024, 98)

SFFILM alumnus **Victor Kossakovsky** (**Aquarela**, Festival 2019; **Gunda**, Doc Stories 2020), returns with a visually stunning meditation on hubris, extraction, and architecture. Epic in scale and brimming with sumptuous visuals, Kossakovsky probes humanity's historic obsession with erecting grandiose structures. Global in scope and enormous in scale, the film floats through time and space, featuring mysterious monoliths, ancient temple ruins, and recently destroyed structures in Turkey and Ukraine. Our guide through the masses of imposing rock and concrete is **Michele De Lucchi**, an Italian architect who quips about the folly of humanity's arrogance while building a sculpture in his backyard. De Lucchi's process of creating sacred natural space is tenderly captured by Kossakovsky as an antidote to the stark imagery of demolition and the incredible wreckage wrought upon the planet in our endless quest to build bigger and better. Wondrous, imposing, and dazzling, Kossakovsky's latest essay on the paradox between nature and humanity is a marvelous sensory experience.

—Jessie Fairbanks

Director—Victor Kossakovsky

Victor Kossakovsky began his career in 1978 at the Leningrad Studio of Documentaries as a camera assistant, assistant director, and editor. In 1988, he graduated with a degree in screenwriting and directing from the Moscow Film School. His feature debut **The Belovs** (1992) won both the VPRO Joris Ivens Award and the Audience Award at the IDFA in 1993. Since then, his films have received numerous prizes. His previous film, **Gunda** (2020), premiered in the Encounters section at the 2020 Berlinale and was nominated for the European Film Award.

A Call to Action: Non-Fiction Leaders in Dialogue

Sat, Oct 19 at 4:15 pm PT at Vogue Theatre

Total Runtime: 60 min

The golden era of documentaries is at an end and what comes next is one of the most fiercely debated topics in our industry. Join us as we welcome **Laura Kim, Carrie Lozano, Justine Nagan, and Keri Putnam** for a timely discussion on the state of affairs within non-fiction filmmaking. Leveraging their professional experience to explore issues surrounding production and exhibition, economic paradigms, and artistic innovation, this group will look to the horizon for opportunities to engage in collective action. Following Putnam's Friday presentation of her recent study on audience behavior and viewing habits, this group dialogue will explore the necessary steps our industry must take to improve creative collaborations, artistic control, and distribution opportunities.

—Jessie Fairbanks

Building Solutions with Audience Demographics

Fri, Oct 18 at 3 pm PT at Vogue Theatre

Total Runtime: 60 min

As our industry faces enormous challenges with digital monopolization, the advent of AI technology, a crumbling exhibition landscape, risk-averse funders, and the drudgery of mass appeal IP, it is hard to predict what solutions will lead to a robust marketplace for documentary storytellers. To build a sustainable future, creators and producers need to be knowledgeable about viewer behavior to successfully connect films with increasingly diversified audiences. Enter Keri Putnam, former CEO of the Sundance Institute and current fellow of the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy, who comes to Doc Stories to present her historic research on US audience demographics and consumption patterns as it relates specifically to documentary film. With unique access and insight, Putnam's research offers a rare opportunity to use quantitative data to examine alternative pathways for engaging audiences and ensure non-fiction filmmaking continues to thrive.

—Jessie Fairbanks

Documentary Filmmaking & Activism Workshop for Teens

Sat, Oct 19 at 1 pm PT at SFFILM FilmHouse

Total Runtime: 120 min

Join **Jalena Keane-Lee**, award-winning filmmaker and director of *Standing Above the Clouds*, for a documentary workshop for teens. Taking a deeper look at documentary filmmaking through a social justice and activism lens, Jalena will lead students through workshopping a documentary approach to a social cause. Students will be guided by the question "What is a story worth telling?" and collaboratively brainstorm a mock plan and treatment. The filmmaker will screen her short precursor to the feature, also called **Standing Above the Clouds**, and give a presentation on her career in filmmaking as well as the documentary process from idea to completion.

—Soph Schultz Rocha

Students will have the chance to ask the director about her career and any advice for getting started in documentary filmmaking. Students are encouraged to come with a social justice cause or community issue that is important to them as well as a notebook!

This workshop runs for two hours and is open to students ages 13–18; space is limited. This workshop is for students only, parents and guardians may drop off their students.

Ernest Cole: Lost and Found

Sat Oct 19 at 11 AM at Vogue Theatre

Raoul Peck (France 2024, 105)

Eight years after his magisterial portrait of **James Baldwin** *I Am Not Your Negro*, master documentarian **Raoul Peck** turns his considered focus to the life and career of South African photographer **Ernest Cole**. With a vocal performance from **LaKeith Stanfield**, Peck deftly weaves through the biography of Cole's life using only his trenchant B&W photographs and impassioned letters and journals. Cole was hailed as a master of singular style for his ability to capture the depredations of life under apartheid and the fissures of Jim Crow American life with immediacy and artistry. Yet for all his success, Cole rarely had stability or steady income. The film unpacks the perplexing trajectory of Cole's life alongside the troubling mystery of Cole's archives with stunning effect. Peck's film captures (and rescues for history) the life of a Black man who managed to make extraordinary art in the face of two distinct and oppressive regimes.

—Rod Armstrong

Director—Raoul Peck

Raoul Peck was born in Haiti and raised in the Congo, USA, France, and Germany. He studied film at the Academy of Cinema and Television in Berlin. His films include **Lumumba** (2000), **Fatal Assistance** (Festival 2013), **Murder in Pacot** (Festival 2014), **I Am Not Your Negro** (Doc Stories 2016), and **Silver Dollar Road** (2023).

Janis: Little Girl Blue

Thu Oct 17 at 4 PM at Vogue Theatre

Amy Berg (USA 2015, 105)

When Doc Stories launched in 2015, an electrifying music biopic about the legendary **Janis Joplin** sent sonic shock waves through the audience. Returning for the 10th anniversary, **Amy Berg's** detailed, crisp, and absorbing portrait of a contrarian artist remains a potent reminder of the power of documentary filmmaking. Concert footage and studio sessions are interspersed with Joplin's personal life and professional triumphs, including her ascent in the Bay Area with Big Brother & the Holding Company. Joplin's ambitions and insecurities are relayed through personal letters (narrated by **Cat Power**) interviews with loved ones, and stories from renown artists such as **Pink**, **D.A. Pennebaker**, and **Melissa Etheridge**. Berg deftly distilled an extraordinary volume of archival footage, interviews, never before seen recordings sessions to illuminate the tumultuous development of Joplin's iconic and primal style. Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate the return of an original Doc Stories title on the big screen.

—Jessie Fairbanks

Director—Amy Berg

Amy Berg is an Oscar and Emmy nominated filmmaker. Her debut film *Deliver Us From Evil* (2006), was nominated for an Academy Award and DGA award. Her follow up feature **West of Memphis** (2012) premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was recognized by BAFTA and the Writers Guild of America. Her narrative debut was **Every Secret Thing** (2014), starring **Diane Lane**, **Elizabeth Banks**, and **Dakota Fanning**. She

most recently helmed the acclaimed documentary miniseries **Phoenix Rising** (2022) for HBO.

Janis: Little Girl Blue will be offered as a community screening, free and open to the public. Attendees must RSVP for tickets at sffilm.org.

Mistress Dispeller

Fri Oct 18 at 7:30 PM at Vogue Theatre
Elizabeth Lo (China/USA 2024, 94)

When Mrs. Li discovers evidence of her husband's infidelity, she takes drastic measures to save her marriage at all costs. She employs Wang Zhenxi, affectionately referred to as Teacher Wang, to be her "mistress dispeller." Teacher Wang is part of a burgeoning cottage industry in China that works in precarious ways to repair failing marriages. Through calculated infiltration of Mr. Li and his mistress's extramarital life, Teacher Wang proceeds to masterfully manipulate both parties to bring an unassailable end to their affair. Elizabeth Lo's provocative documentary paints a spellbinding portrait of a woman for hire and delicately gains unprecedented access to the intimate private lives of all parties involved in the doomed love triangle. **Mistress Dispeller** is an extraordinary examination of love in the 21st century and of those willing to preserve it, by any means necessary.

—Jordan Klein

Director—Elizabeth Lo

Elizabeth Lo is an award winning filmmaker currently based between Hong Kong and Los Angeles. She received her MFA from Stanford University. Her directorial work has been showcased at Sundance, IDFA, SXSW, Tribeca, MoMA, AFI Fest, True/False, New York Times Op-Docs, Field of Vision and PBS' POV. She previously directed **Stray** (2020), which was recognized by Hot Docs, the Independent Spirit Awards, Critics Choice Documentary Awards and Cinema Eye Honors.

New York Times Op-Docs

Fri Oct 18 at 5 PM at Vogue Theatre
Total Runtime 72 min

SFFILM's celebrated collaboration with the New York Times continues into its tenth year to present another showcase of their award-winning short-form documentary series, NYT Op-Docs. This year, SFFILM has curated five films that provocatively explore the complex and precarious spaces that various women occupy in an ever-modernizing world. The constant ebb and flow of progress and regression characterizes these stories of perseverance in the midst of trauma and heartache, collision with antiquated tradition, the murkiness of a new digital frontier, a fight for bodily self-determination, and a friendship uncompromised by generational boundaries. As women continue to fight

for autonomy globally, we invite you to this appropriately bold addition to our festival program.

—Jordan Klein

Films are listed in order of play.

Christmas Everyday

Faye Tsakas, USA 2024, 14 min

A prosaic exploration of what it means to be an influencer, from the perspective of two tween girls from rural Alabama

A Move

Elahe Esmaili, Iran 2024, 18 min

Iranian filmmaker Elahe Esmaili challenges long-standing cultural norms when she arrives at her family's gathering without wearing a hijab.

Contractions

Lynne Sachs, USA 2023, 18 min

Reproductive rights activists present a timely and poetic expression of grief and dismay in the midst of the overturning of Roe v Wade.

The Final Chapter

Frøydis Fossli Moe, Norway 2024, 13 min

Frøydis receives a phone call that her father is dying from cancer, which forces her to confront her past traumas experienced during her upbringing.

Madeleine

Raquel Sancinetti, Canada 2023, 15 min

Madeleine stubbornly refuses to leave her retirement home. Her friend Raquel, who is 67 years her junior, finds a creative way to take her on the journey of a lifetime.

No Other Land

Sat Oct 19 at 6 PM at Vogue Theatre

Yuval Abraham, Basel Adra, Hamdan Ballal, Rachel Szor (Palestine/Norway 2024, 96)

Made by a four-person collective of Israeli and Palestinian activists, this unflinching, prize-winning documentary depicts the harrowing conditions of a mountain village living under constant violence. **Basel Adra**, one of the film's directors, has been documenting the forced evictions and bulldozing of homes in Masafer Yatta for decades, and his moving and enraging footage shows increased disregard for Palestinian lives. His difficult friendship with Israeli journalist Yuval Abraham, also on the directorial team, forms another emotional center for the film as they remain colleagues despite the fact that one of them has significantly more power and access. Also noteworthy is the fact that all of the footage is from before October 7, giving **No Other Land** historical stature

as a record of simmering rage before matters become immeasurably worse. The film deservedly won the Jury Prize and the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 2024 Berlin Film Festival.

—Rod Armstrong

No Other Land is presented in collaboration with SFFILM's partners at the Arab Film and Media Institute (AFMI) and the Jewish Film Institute (JFI). Directors Yuval Abraham and Basel Adra are expected to attend.

Director—Yuval Abraham

Yuval Abraham is an Israeli filmmaker and journalist who has spent years writing about the Israeli occupation, mostly in Hebrew.

Director—Basel Adra

Basel Adra is a Palestinian filmmaker, lawyer, and journalist who has also worked for various human rights organizations and as a journalist. He's been documenting life in his home community of Masafer Yatta since the age of fourteen. As an activist and documentary director, he is fighting against Israel's mass expulsion of his community.

Director—Hamdan Ballal

Hamdan Ballal is a Palestinian filmmaker, photographer, and farmer. He has worked as a researcher for several human rights groups opposed to the Israeli occupation.

Director—Rachel Szor

Rachel Szor is an Israeli filmmaker, video journalist, and cinematographer.

One to One: John & Yoko

Thu Oct 17 at 7 PM at Vogue Theatre

Kevin Macdonald (UK 2024, 101)

The only full-length concert **John Lennon** ever performed after leaving **The Beatles** was a charity concert for the children of Willowbrook Institution, an event he hosted with his partner **Yoko Ono** in 1972. **Kevin Macdonald's** evocative new documentary includes heaping doses of the remastered concert footage, but this is not your traditional music film. Focusing on the early 1970s, the story captures Lennon and Ono's spiritual growth and political radicalization with pulpy text, private phone recordings, home videos, shocking interviews, and of course, music! Eschewing the traditional biopic structure, **One to One** is a cunningly crafted mixtape flipping through the private moments of the iconic couple's life alongside seminal cultural moments in our nation's history. With a thrilling edit from co-director **Sam Rice-Edwards**, Doc Stories 2025 Opening Night film encapsulates the propulsive energy of a singular artist and captures the national mood, one eerily reminiscent of today's times.

—Jessie Fairbanks

Director—Kevin Macdonald

Kevin Macdonald is a Scottish film director whose films include the Academy Award-winning documentary **One Day in September** (1999), about the 1972 murder of 11 Israeli athletes; the climbing documentary **Touching the Void** (2003); the drama **The Last King of Scotland** (2006); the political thriller **State of Play** (2009); the Bob Marley documentary **Marley** (2012); the post-apocalyptic drama **How I Live Now** (2013); the thriller **Black Sea** (2014); the Whitney Houston documentary **Whitney** (2018); and the legal drama film **The Mauritanian** (2021).

The Remarkable Life of Ibelin

Sat Oct 19 at 8:30 PM at Vogue Theatre
Benjamin Ree (Norway 2024, 104)

Before Mats Steen passed away from a rare muscular disease, he left his blog password to his parents, which would ultimately open the door to an entire community and fantastic world that they could not have possibly imagined. In his time spent playing **World of Warcraft**, Mats became known by his avatar “Ibelin,” a name that would resonate with other gamers around Europe, as he forged bonds that extended far beyond the confines of the fictional world. In **The Remarkable Life of Ibelin**, director Benjamin Ree skillfully deploys animators and professional narrators to recreate the majestic world of Azeroth, as experienced through the eyes of Mats and other gamers. Benjamin’s documentary serves as not only a boundary breaking exercise in the possibilities of film form, but also as a formidably compassionate testimony of the remarkable life that Mats had lived and the lives of others that he profoundly impacted.
—Jordan Klein

Director—Benjamin Ree

Benjamin Ree is a Norwegian filmmaker based currently in Oslo. His debut documentary feature was **Magnus** (2016), which profiled chess titan Magnus Carlsen. His second feature, **The Painter and the Thief** (2020), won the World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award for Creative Storytelling at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival and was recognized as the best documentary of 2020 by BBC, The Washington Post, and The Boston Globe.

Shorts Block: The Persistence of Dreams

Sun Oct 20 at 1:30 PM at Vogue Theatre
Total Runtime 98 min

Harnessing the power of short-form non-fiction film, each character-driven story in this block is a cinematic demonstration of perseverance. Spanning across North America, these films investigate the pursuit of dreams through journeys of the body, challenges within the food industry, and collective celebrations of opportunity. As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Doc Stories, an event created in part to honor documentary shorts,

each film in this program poetically reflects on the road left behind, the unknowns of the future, and the irresistible power of aspirations.

—Jordan Klein

Films are listed in order of play.

Arepas En Bici

Jonah Moshhammer, Brennan McGee, USA 2024, 14 min

A sumptuous culinary presentation and pulse-pounding ride with Victor Aguilar, a Venezuelan chef who cycles through San Francisco delivering his arepas while weaving through memories of his immigrant experience.

Kowloon!

Mona Xia, Erin Ramirez, USA 2024, 16 min

Saugus, Massachusetts is home to the largest Chinese restaurant in the US. Within its colorful and ornamental walls is the story of the Wong family, where their American dream came true.

Hello Stranger

Amélie Hardy, Canada 2024, 17 min

At her local Nova Scotian laundromat, Cooper shares her gender reassignment experience and the tumultuous journey to arrive and tell her story, before her clothes are dried.

Black Hercules

Rodney Lucas, USA 2024, 9 min

Soulful, scintillating, and swole. LA bodybuilding legend Craig Monson reflects on his tenacious ascension to become a chiseled champion of the 80s, and a folk hero for Black LA.

American Seams

Carly Jakins, Jared Jakins, USA 2024, 17 min

Told through three vignettes, this exquisitely captured representation of quilters sews together the intricacies and complexities of what it means to be a woman in the American rural West.

The Turnaround

Ben Proudfoot, Kyle Thrash, USA 2024, 24 min

Kyle Thrash and Academy Award winner **Ben Proudfoot** team up to tell the story of Jon McCann, a Phillies fan whose plan to turn things around for his beloved baseball team became the stuff of legend.

Suburban Fury

Sun Oct 20 at 7:30 PM at Vogue Theatre

Robinson Devor (USA 2024, 115)

In order to tell her story on film Sara Jane Moore, who attempted to shoot President Gerald Ford in Union Square in 1975, insists that she be the only one interviewed. The result is one of the most fascinating depictions of an unreliable narrator in the documentary field. Accompanied by judicious and remarkable archival footage, Moore tells her story from the back seat of a Plymouth, often reacting with barely suppressed rage at behind-the-camera questions from Devor. Moore claims she was cultivated as an FBI informant due to her involvement with the Patty Hearst kidnapping and her ability to cultivate relationships with political radicals. But without secondary sources, it's impossible to separate fact from fiction here, and **Suburban Fury** encompasses not just Moore's ultra-compelling tale and a reflection on that era's political upheaval, but also ruminates on the very idea of documentary portraiture.

—Rod Armstrong

Director—Robinson Devor

Raised in New York, **Robinson Devor** is a director, screenwriter, and editor who received his BFA in Film from SMU. His first feature **The Woman Chaser** (1999) was selected for the New York Film Festival and Sundance. His second narrative **Police Beat** (2005) was also selected for Sundance and is in the permanent collection of MoMA. He's also directed highly acclaimed documentaries including **Zoo** (2007) and **Pow Wow** (2018). He has been working on **Suburban Fury** since 2010.

Union

Sat Oct 19 at 1:30 PM at Vogue Theatre

Brett Story, Stephen Maing (USA 2024, 104)

Among other dubious business practices, Amazon is notorious for being anti-union. Some brave workers in various locations are taking organizing matters into their own hands however, and this rousing and immersive documentary takes a deep dive into the efforts of one such group in Staten Island. Dismayed over the inadequate provisions of PPE equipment for workers, a charismatic aspiring rapper named Chris Smalls walks off the job, forms a group called the Amazon Labor Union (ALU), and convinces others to join via motivating speeches and offers of free marijuana. In order to bring the matter to a vote, ALU needs to get 30% of the workforce signed on amid predatory anti-organizing tactics by their bosses, and directors Story and Maing depict the ALU's ups and downs with a bird's-eye view as the group strives to reach the magic number.

—Rod Armstrong

Director—Brett Story

Brett Story is an award-winning filmmaker and writer based in Toronto. Her films have screened in theaters and festivals internationally, including at CPH-DOX, SXSW, True/False, and Sheffield Doc/Fest. She is the director of the award-winning films **The Prison in Twelve Landscapes** (2016) and **The Hottest August** (2019), and author of the

book *Prison Land: Mapping Carceral Power Across Neoliberal America*. Brett has held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the Sundance Institute, and was named one of Variety's 10 Documentary Filmmakers to Watch. She holds a PhD in geography and is currently an assistant professor of Media Praxis at the University of Toronto.

Director—Stephen Maing

Stephen Maing is an Emmy-award winning filmmaker and cinematographer based in New York City. His feature documentary *Crime + Punishment* which he also filmed and edited won a 2018 Sundance Special Jury Award, an Emmy Award for Outstanding Social Issue Documentary, and was shortlisted for the Academy Award for Best Documentary. His film **Dirty Gold** (2020), featured in Netflix's *Dirty Money* series, immersively reveals US involvement in the illicit mining and trading of gold and was filmed on location in Peru's Amazon rain forest & Miami, Florida.

The White House Effect

Sun Oct 20 at 4:30 PM at Vogue Theatre

Bonni Cohen, Pedro Kos, Jon Shenk (USA 2024, 97)

Conversation around climate change often gets mired in the validity of the issue or the politically correct terminology for our rapidly changing world. Pushing aside all this noise, the latest film from esteemed local filmmakers **Bonni Cohen, Pedro Kos, and Jon Shenk**, masterfully reconstructs the decades of failed U.S. policy that led to the current crisis. Leaders from both sides of the political spectrum undergo microscopic analysis with particular attention paid to **Jimmy Carter's** compromised environmental agenda and **George H. Bush's** passionate support of the EPA (initially). Corrupting capitalist interests may sound familiar but what actually happened is much more complicated. The filmmakers' deft excavation of the political chess that led to innumerable squandered opportunities for real environmental change is breathtaking. A stunning project of editorial craft and visionary archival use, this timely film holds up a critical mirror to recent history while illuminating a path forward for demystifying political obfuscation and challenging institutional power.

—Jessie Fairbanks

Director—Bonni Cohen

Bonni Cohen is the co-founder of the Catapult Film Fund and of the San Francisco-based documentary production company Actual Films. She has produced and directed numerous award-winning films, including **The Island President** (2011), **The Rape of Europa** (SFIFF 2007) and **Wonders Are Many** (SFIFF 2007). She executive produced **Art and Craft** (SFIFF 2013), **3½ Minutes, Ten Bullets** (SFIFF 2015), and **Audrie & Daisy** (Festival 2016).

Director—Pedro Kos

Pedro Kos is a director and Emmy Award-winning editor. His feature documentary directorial debut **Bending the Arc** (co-directed with **Kief Davidson**) screened at SFFILM Festival 2017. Kos's prior work includes editing **Jehane Noujaim's The Square** (2013), **Lucy Walker's Waste Land** (2010) and **The Crash Reel** (2013), **Jon Shenk's The Island President** (2011), and **Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee** and **Gayatri Roshan's Elemental** (2012). Kos is from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and received his B.A. in Theater Directing from Yale University.

Director—Jon Shenk

Jon Shenk is an award-winning director and cinematographer and a co-founder, director, and producer at Actual Films. He directed and photographed **The Island President** (2011), which won Best Documentary at the 2011 Toronto Film Festival. He was the director of photography for the Academy Award-winning short documentary **Smile Pinki** (2009) and won an Emmy Award for **Blame Somebody Else** (2007). Shenk directed and photographed **The Lost Boys of Sudan** (SFIFF 2003), a 2004 Independent Spirit Award winner, and co-directed and photographed **Democracy Afghan Style** (2004). Early in his career, he directed and photographed **The Beginning** (1999), a chronicle of **George Lucas's Star Wars: Episode 1** (1999).

Documentary Filmmaking & Activism Workshop for Teens

Sat, Oct 19 at 1 PM at SFFILM FilmHouse

120 min

Join **Jalena Keane-Lee**, award-winning filmmaker and director of **Standing Above the Clouds**, for a documentary workshop for teens. Taking a deeper look at documentary filmmaking through a social justice and activism lens, Jalena will lead students through workshopping a social cause. Students will be guided by the question "What is a story worth telling?" and collaboratively brainstorm a mock plan and treatment. The filmmaker will screen, the precursor to the feature, the short film **Standing Above the Clouds** and give a presentation on her career in filmmaking as well as the documentary filmmaking process from idea to completion.

Students will have the chance to ask the director about her career and any advice for getting started in documentary filmmaking. Students are encouraged to come with a social justice cause or community issue that is important to them!

Director—Jalena Keane-Lee

Jalena Keane-Lee is a filmmaker who explores intergenerational trauma and healing through an intersectional lens. Jalena, named 2023 Adobe x Sundance Woman to Watch, is currently touring her first feature-length documentary, **Standing Above the Clouds**. The film premiered at HotDocs in 2024 where it won the Bill Nemtin Award for Best Social Impact Doc. Her short films have streamed on POV and Criterion Collection, played at over 50 film festivals, and won best short at LA Asian Film Festival in 2020 and the Jury Award at Sundance in 2023. Jalena co-founded Breaktime Productions, an

all-women-of-color production company that has won two Cannes Lion awards for branded content.

This workshop runs for two hours and is open to students ages 13–18; space is limited. This workshop is for students only, parents and guardians may drop off their students.

VENUES

Vogue Theatre
3290 Sacramento St

SFFILM Doc Stories Lounge
(Sponsored by ESPN Films 30 for 30)
Laureate Bar and Lounge
444 Presidio Ave

SFFILM FilmHouse
455 9th Street

TRANSIT

The Vogue Theatre and Laureate Bar and Lounge are served by Muni Lines 1, 2, 3, 24, 43, and 38. Walking times from the transit stops to theaters vary between 1–15 minutes.

SFFILM Filmhouse is approximately a 20-minute walk from Civic Center BART station.

PARKING

At the Vogue Theatre and Laureate Bar and Lounge, metered street parking is available in the nearby neighborhood. It is generally free after 6 pm and on Sundays.

At SFFILM FilmHouse, metered street parking is available in the surrounding neighborhoods. It is generally free after 6 pm and on Sundays.